

29

A I O V R N A L L , O R

Briefe report of the late seruice in Britaigne, by the Prince de Dombes Generall of the French Kings Army in those partes, assisted with her Maiesties forces at this present there, vnder the conduct of Sir Iohn Norreis : aduertised by letters here resident from the said Prince to the Kings Ambassadour, with her Maiesty, and confirmed bylike aduertisements from others, imployed in that seruice.

*Published, to aunswere the slanderous bruits raised of late
by some euill affected to that and other good a-
ctions, undertaken against the enemy of
Gods true Religion.*



L O N D O N
Printed by Iohn VVolfse, and are to
be sold at his shop right ouer against
the great South-doore of
Paules. 1591.

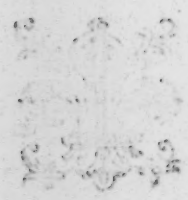
TO THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF THE

NAVY

WASHINGTON

DEAR SIR



Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

John D. Ford

Chief Clerk of the Navy

Washington



w
u
f
L
w

f
f
q
m
h
m
t
t
th



Fter the winning of the Towne of *Guingcamp*, the purpose of the Prince was, to haue assailed the Towne of *Morlaix*, to the ende to haue reduced the sayd Town, and the rest of *Basse-Britagne* to the Kings obedience. Howbeit not-

withstanding that the Duke of *Mercaur* was removed from *Pontivy*, where he ioyned with four thousand Spaniards, vnder the leading of *Don Iuan de Lagula* and was marching towards *Morlaix*, by the way of *Corlay*.

The Prince hauing discovered the forces of the saide Duke, which were of seauen hundred horse, foure thousand Spaniards, and two thousand Harquebusiers French: Considered how dangerous it might be to ingage his Army before a towne, vntill he were Maister of the field, the enemy being of more strength then he, and in a countrey of aduantage, and where he might bee assisted with a multitude of peisants, long before armed and resolved for the enemy.

A 2

Vpon

Vpon these difficulties, the Prince made stay about the Towne of *Guingcamp*, aswell to amend the fortifications, as to repaire the breach made by hys Canon, (the better to assure the Towne from the enemy) as to attend the bringing of two Canons, & two Culuerings, drawne from *Brest* to *Lagnon*, with certayne powder, bullets, and other munition, conuayed out of *England* to *Pinpaoul*, to the end that the same being in place of assurance, the enemy might not take occasion to driue the Prince from his other enterprises.

The eight of Iune, the Duke de *Mercaur* arriued at *Corlay*, within three leagues of *Guingcamp*, a castle pretending to hold for the king, but in the possession of *Madame de Guymenay*, whose brother, *Monsieur de Beaudolphin* is liefetenant to the Duke de *Mercaur*, so that it semed the partie was made before hand, for the next day after they did arriue, the castle rendred without seeing the Canon, and the Captain remayned with the enemy: & frō that place the Duke sent to the Prince a Trompeter about certaine prisoners of ours, taken at *Corlay*, who signified to the sayd Prince that he had in charge frō the Duke, to entreat him to appoint some place of Battaille: wherunto the Prince made aunswere, that it was the most acceptable newes that could be brought vnto him, and a thing which he often sought and desired, and wher-vnto at this time, he hoped to enforce the said Duke to whom he would not return answer by the mouth of a Trompeter, which might be disaduowed, but by

by a writing signed with his owne hand, which was accordingly performed as followeth.

The Prince de Dombes Gouvernour for the King in Dauphine, and Generall of his army in the Province of Britaigne.

V P P On a message deliuered to the sayd Prince by a Trompeter sent to him from the Duke of Mercœur for other causes, by the which hee was sollicitated to assigne and make choise of some day of place of battaile, desired by the Duke: he considering how speeches of that nature deliuered by a Trompeter, might be disadvised, and desiring as ever sithence his first comming into that Countrey, that some like occasion might be offered whereby the miseries and calamities of the same might haue an end, which he had made appeare by effects, thought meet for the better aduancing of so good a worke, by this writing signed with his hand, and sent by a Trompeter of his owne, to signify to the sayd Duke de Mercœur, that the thing he most desired, was to come to the issue of so happie a day, and therefore would yeeld vnto him the choise of the day and place for that encounter, so that the place of meeting be capable to receiue the two armies in order of Battaille, and to auoyd the delays that might growe by want of resolution herein, he thought the Lawne of Menay were fitte for this purpose, concluding, that if this honorable resolution should chance to be differed vppon any alteration whatsoever on either part: he the said Prince doth protest before God and the world, that the honour and reputation of him that shall herein make default, shall incur

the staine and preiudice that shall grow thereof.

Dated at the Campe before Guingcamp, the senenth of June. 1591.

The 8. of Iune the Duke of *Mercoeur* remooued from *Corlay* to *Saint Gilles*, two small leagues distant frō *Chasteau-Laudran* : The same day also the Prince departed from *Guingcamp*, about three of the clocke in the morning, and lodged that night at *Chasteau-Laudran*, where his own Trumpeter with the Trumpeter of the Duke de *Mercoeur* met him, and deliuered an answer from the said Duke signed with his hand, the contents whereof followeth.

The Duke de *Mercoeur* and of *Penthieure* Peere of *France*, Prince of the Holy Empire, Lorde of *Martigues* and *Gouernour* of *Britaine*.

HAVING perused the writing of the Prince de *Dombes*, sent, vpon the challenge of battel, deliuered by his trumpeter : euen as he hath many times sought the occasion, and desiring nothing more, then by a battel to free this Prouince from the miseries wherewith it hath bin ouerwhelmed, by the repaire of the said Prince into the same, and to withstand the apparant ruine thereof like to ensue, by the domination of an hereticall king, with the ouerthrow of our holy Catholike religion : for the desire he hath to see the issue of so happy a day, and because the day and place is referred to his election, is resoluēd to be ready with his army on *Thorseday* next at ten of the clocke in the morning, in the fittest place for such an action

tion betwene Corlay and Guingamp, and to come onward the best part of the way : which ought not to be refused or disferred in seeking of any place more remote or vnfit with out dishonour. The said Duke protesting before God (from whom as fighting in his cause he hopeth of victorie) that he neuer had other intent, and that if the saide Prince shal either refuse or disferre this offer, he shal shew to the world, that his actions are not answerable to his bragges, and shal thereby blemish his honour and reputation. Dated at the Campe at Corlay the 8. of Iune 1591.

Hereunto the Prince for many good reasons, gaue such reply as the D. might perceiue, that he would not contend with him only in termes opprobrious, but to giue him all the prouocation that possible hee might to come to hand strokes returned him this answer.

The Prince *de Dombes* Gouverneur of *Daulphine*,
Lieutenant Generall for the King in his armie
in *Britaigne*.

Having scene the answer of Duke Mercœur of the eight of this month signed with his hand, upon the offer made of the day and place of battel to be given, saith, he was sent into this province to chastise and punish those that are traiterously rebelled against the King, of whome the saide Duke being chiefe, doth manifest how he shunneth and feareth the presence of the said Prince, and the prime and punishment of his rebellion: and in regard of the lewd imputa-

tions giuen by his answer to the King, & to the said Prince, he saith he lyeth, and shal lie as often as he shall so say. At the Campe at Chasteau-Laudran the ninth of Iune. 1591.

This Cartel was sent by a trumpeter, and deliuered to the Duke in the presence of many of the principal men of his army.

THE Duke greatly moued with this Cartell, did openly by a solemne othe vowe within three daies to offer battaile to the Prince, and on the 9. of Iune being wensday, dislodged, & that day incaped *Quelenec* a Village about a league and a halfe from *Chasteau-Laudran*, scituate at the foote of a high hill, which by deepe hedges, ditches and inclosures, confronted a little heath of two miles compas, to which Heath vpon the discouery of the approach of the enemy by the army, the Prince mounteth on horsebacke, and goeth to discerne and make choise of the place for the battaile betweene the ennemy and him, and findeth about three quarters of a league of the Village aforesaide, a large plaine or Heath, skirted in the side of the enimie with a Coppice, by a litle hill, & the ground raised with ditches of great aduantage for the enimie, who by three large passages might without any difficulty, enter into the said Heath.

The tenth day of Iune, the ennemy, within one quarter of a league of the Heath, sheweth his whole army in order of battaile vpon the top of a hill: the
Prince

Prince on the other side put his troupes in ordonance within the Heath, disposing the same by the aduise of *Sir Iohn Norreis* into three Battallions, whereof the infanterie English made two, & the Lancekneights the third. This day was spent with some light skirmishes, entertained by our men, and followed euen to the maine of the enemies army.

The 11. of Iune being Friday, the enemy drew his army to the foot of the hill, and placed his artillerie vpon the side of the Heath, in a place of such aduantage, as it commanded in the nature of a Cauallier all the whole Heath, where he possessed the ground neare about him, & bordred al the hedges with shot: and by the time that this was perfourmed our army was marched into the Heath in order of battaile, and presently sent out two hundred footemen to viewe the countenance of the ennemy, who aduancing themselves, charged the ennemy, draue them to their strengths, put them from their hedges and Barricades, and slewe diuerse of them. Vpon the retrait of these two hundred men, the Duke put forth siue hundred French, and three hundred Spaniardes to repossesse the places, whom he followed with the great of his arme. Which perceiued by the *Prince*, remaining on the Heath with *Monsieur de la Hunaulde* commanding the auantgard, and hauing his regiment of horse in battaile on the right hand of the white Cornet, and General *Norreis* (who in this action, gaue good prooffe of his wisdom and valour) *Monsieur de Pagny*, *de Pruniaux*, *de Monmartin*, and

de *Bassenay*, order was giuen for the putting forth of three hundred footemen, commanded by Capitaine *Anthony Wingfield* Sergeant maior, and capitaine *Morton*, and the English horse lead by Capitaine *Anthony Sherley*, and the skirmish hotely prosecuted, the enemy let slippe a great number of shotte vnder the defence of the hedges, thinking to lodge them on the left hand, & to haue taken some two or three houses, & a small wood vpon the edge of the Heath. The *Prince* commaunded to be drawn out of the Battallion of the Lancekneights one hundred men, shotte and pikes, and one hundred and fiftie shotte French, lead by the Baron de *Molas*, backed with forty light horse, conducted by Monsieur de la *Tremblaye*, appointed to force the enemy from the place they had taken.

This direction was valiantly prosecuted by ours, but specially by the English, so as the enemies horse and footemen which were in the plaine were forced to flie, many slaine, and the rest driuen to saue themselves wythin their Artillerie, where the whole strength of Spaniards, with the rest of their armie was placed. There was taken in this charge Monsieur de *Guebrian* Colonell of the footemen of the ennemy by Monsieur de la *Tremblay*, and slaine Don *Roderigo*, chiefe Marefchall of the Spaniards, a Spanish Capitaine, and to the number of two hundred French, and three score Spaniards.

This resolute charge so amazed the army of the enemy, that our men were suffered within tenne paces

ces of their Cannon to disarme the dead, lead away prisoners, and retired at their ease, the enemy neuer proffering to followe.

In this charge Captaine *Anthony Sherley* gaue such an example to the French horse, as was admired and much commended in al the army, and the commanders on foote perfourmed their partes with no lesse valour and reputation, namely, the Sergeant Maior, Captaine *Dolphin*, and Lieutenant *Long*, who behaued himselfe most valiantly, and receiued in his body fise harquebuz shotte : but all such as by Gods helpe within fewe dayes he will be able to returne againe into the field.

The residue of the day wherein this charge was giuen, was spent in slight skirmishes and canonades.

The twelfth of Iune, the enemy made a very great shewe to come forth to the battaile, but at the last, sent out some number of shotte to the skirmish, against whom captaine *Anthony Sherley* with fifteen horse and a fewe foote, made head, and put them speedily to their heeles, pursuing them to their Baricades, where his horse was shotte in the head, and Maister *Kempe* a Gentleman of that Cornet slaine, and Maister *Charles Blunt* his horse killed vnder him with the Canon, and himselfe somewhat wounded.

The thirteenth of Iune, the ennemy also offered some light skirmishes, but woulde not abide anie charge either of horse or foote.

On Monday the 14. of Iune we expected the battaile, as vndertaken by *Don Iuan de Lagula* General

of the Spaniards, in the honor of S. *Iohn* whose day it was with them, but nothing was done: and that day seemed to ende their choler, for that the Duke did prepare the same night to dislodge, withdrawing his Cannons from the place where they were planted, and the day following repassed the hill where he first appeared, and from thence retired to *Quelenec*, where yet he remaineth.

The *Prince* hereuppon after he had continued his army on the Heath, from Friday the eleauenth of Iune, till the fiftenth of the same, alwayes in a readines to haue giuen battaile (the weather hauing bin for the most part exceeding wet) withdrew his artilerie, dislodged his army, and returned euery troupe to the seuerall quarters, where they had before lodged, expecting the intencion of the enemy, thereby to aduile of the meanes to attempt vpon him.

The two armies continued encamped the one neere to the other by the space of sixe dayes, in all which time the enemy neuer durst presume to draw his army into the Heath, nor make choise of ground for battaile, notwithstanding the brauery of his challenge.

On Wednesday the sixteenth day of Iune, Monsieur de la *Noue* with the troupe of the Conte *Montgomery* being an hundred Curates, and the Conte de *Combourg* came vnto *Chasteau-Landran*, whose arriuall giueth hope of good successe in the Kings affaires, to the ruine and confusion of his enemies.

The



The *Prince de Dombes* in a particular Letter of the twentieth of Iune, sent to the Kings Embassadour heere resident with her Maiesty giueth this testimony of the valour of our Generall and Nation.

I Send this brieife discourse of the late action, wherewith you may acquaint her Maiestie, protesting truely vnto you, that I obserue daily more and more the valour and woorth of Generall Norreis, who hath so worthely carried himselfe in all these actions, that he hath wonne greate honour and reputation here, and so haue all the Captaines and Souldiours of that Nation vnder his conduct: and if the Spaniardes had had courage and valour like to these English troupes which hath pleased her Maiestie to send vnto vs, we had made an ende of the miseries of this Prouince, by the happy issue of a battaile.

And Monsieur de la Nouë in a Letter of the 21. of Iune to the saide Embassadour, yeeldeth his opinion of the actions, and of the General and our Nation in these termes:

The enemy was retired two leagues from our Army before my arriual, and is sithence gon further off: beleeue mee there was made a braue attempt vpon him,

as Generall Norreis can best signifie vnto you, who was present at all that was offered. Our determination is still to draw the to Battail, which can not at al times as our choise bee effected, as well by reason of the quality of the Countrey, as that the Duke of Mercœur will commit nothing to hazarde. Without the succour sent hither by the Queene of England, Brittainne had beene greatly in danger, (I meane so much thereof as is possessed by the King) who in that respect is greatly bound vnto her Maiesty. It is a verie faire and gallant troupe of men, and are commanded by a most braue Captain Generall Norreis, a man very tractable, and with whom we are well fitted in disposition.

FINIS.



